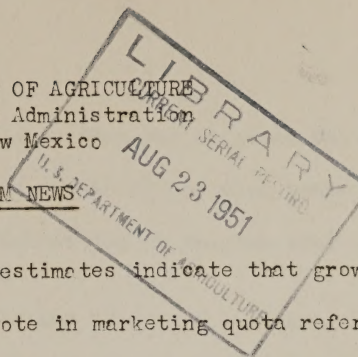


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS



5-6-49
NO. 344

MAJOR DECISIONS FACING FARMERS - Current crop estimates indicate that growers of some basic commodities may be called upon to vote in marketing quota referendums as required under current laws, says W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee. With this in prospect he points out that it is important for farmers to have in mind that farmers themselves through their elected committees administer these programs.

The chairman explains that acreage allotments on specified major crops also may be established by order of the Secretary of Agriculture. A national allotment is established and this is broken down to State and county allotments. The farmer-elected county committees then have the responsibility of setting up the allotments for each farm.

While acreage allotments may be established by order of the Secretary, marketing quotas to be put in effect must be approved by two-thirds of the farmers voting in a referendum. And if quota programs are approved, they also are administered by the local farmer-elected committees.

These same committeemen are responsible for the Agricultural Conservation Program and for activities in connection with the Government price support programs for farm commodities.

Mr. Martin quoted from a recent statement by Ralph S. Trigg, PMA Administrator, at a State PMA Conference, indicating the place of elected committeemen in administering farm programs:

"Farmer committeemen in recent years have concentrated their efforts pretty largely on the Agricultural Conservation Program. For this reason some people have forgotten how many different things the committeemen do -- how vitally important they are in the administration of the over-all farm program ----- Personally, I

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am convinced that the PMA committees, as developed from the original AAA committees, are the very heart of the entire administrative machinery for farm programs. Without them, I do not see how we could do an efficient job of program administration."

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BIG GRAIN STORAGE JOB AHEAD OF FARMERS - Increasing storage facilities, especially for grains, is a major job ahead in connection with price support, according to Ralph S. Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration. Unless this is done, he said, there will not be enough storage space to handle the new crops when they are added to carry-over supplies, and farmers will not be able to take full advantage of the price-support programs.

Department of Agriculture estimates of April 1 stocks of grains give some indication of the tremendous storage job facing farmers and others. Stocks of corn were estimated to be the largest of record, stocks of oats and barley the second largest, and stocks of wheat the third largest -- exceeded only in 1942 and 1943.

Corn stocks of 1,833 million bushels in all positions were more than double those of April 1, 1948 and much larger than on any other April 1; only 57 million bushels were in off-farm positions, much below the usual proportion.

Of the total 576 million bushels of wheat in all storage positions, 239 million were on farms; 146 million in interior mills, elevators, and warehouses; 63 million at merchant mills; and nearly 125 million bushels at terminals.

Oats stocks total 606 million bushels, of which about 578 million were on farms; off-farm stocks of 28 million bushels were smaller than usual. Barley stocks amount to 162 million bushels -- 112 million of them on farms.

Rye stocks of nearly 10 million bushels show a gradual building up since the April 1, 1947 low point of 5 million bushels. They were, however, only about half of the 1945 stocks and less than one-fifth of those in 1943. Farm stocks make up slightly more than half the total.

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...the very heart of the ... administrative machinery for their programs. With
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Department of Agriculture ... of April 1 ...
...of the ... for ... and others. ... of ...
...to be the largest of record, ... of ... and ...
...and ... of ... the ... largest -- exceeded only in 1935 and 1936.
...of ... million bushels in all ... were more than double
...of April 1, 1935 and ... from on any other April 1, only 17 million
...were in off-farm positions, ... from the usual proportion.
...of the total ... bushels of wheat in all storage positions, 250 million
...in farm, 120 million in ... and ... 13 million
...at present ... and ... 120 million bushels of ...
...of the ... 200 million bushels, of which about 170 million were on farm,
...of the ... 25 million bushels were smaller than usual. ...
...to 120 million bushels -- 115 million of them in farm.
...of ... 120 million bushels ... a ... building up since the
...of ... 120 million bushels. They were, however, only about half
...of the 1935 stocks and less than ... of those in 1935. Farm stocks were up
...to 120 million bushels.

In planning an all-round storage program, Mr. Trigg said, it is recognized that first requirements for grain storage, especially for corn, are on and near the farm; such storage must be backed by any needed increases in facilities for bulk storage.

"Congress has been asked to remove the storage ban which tied the Commodity Credit Corporation's hands last year," says Mr. Trigg and "We are ready to move ahead on this program just as soon as we get the required authority."

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AIMS OF ACP - The Agricultural Conservation Program encourages farmers to establish and maintain sound and balanced systems of farming which add to and preserve the productivity of their land, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He points out that the assistance offered for carrying out individual conservation measures to directly benefit the soil often stimulates over-all changes in farming systems.

Often the first and basic need for conservation is a return of minerals to the soil. But this, the chairman explains, is usually the first step in a series of practices to conserve soil and water. The use of lime and phosphate under Agricultural Conservation Program specifications are good conservation practices in themselves, but their chief value is in the succession of practices which they set underway.

In the opinion of the chairman, despite the very material progress of recent years, farmers are not carrying out enough conservation work. Even the use of lime and phosphate is far below needs, considering the vast amount of soil which needs strengthening and protecting through heavier growth of grasses and clovers. These plants, he explains, need a fertile soil to grow well and thus provide the maximum protective covering and add the desired humus so essential in conservation.

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In the first place, it is necessary to have a certain amount of capital, especially for the first year, and the first year's capital must be protected by any possible means in the first year.

"Capital has been asked to provide the first year's capital, and the first year's capital must be protected by any possible means in the first year."

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

5-13-49
NO. 345

FARMER COMMITTEE SYSTEM FACES CRUCIAL TEST - The challenge to farm programs which have taken nearly a half century to establish, was discussed this week by Alvin V. McCormack, Director, Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and William W. Chandler of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Talking with Texas farmers, agricultural agency representatives, elected farmer committeemen and representatives of civic and service organizations, the speakers stressed the importance of being prepared for the changes which seem definitely to be shaping up. "With wheat bins, corn cribs and cotton warehouses full and the threat of price depressing surpluses, the structure of price support programs may be tested to the utmost."

"Will they stand and is the organization of elected committeemen equal to the job of administering these programs when it comes to setting up acreage allotments and handling marketing quotas?" were questions raised by the Department officials.

The speakers emphasized that the responsibility rests upon the elected farmer committees.

As Mr. McCormack expressed it, "the country can be thankful that we have the committee system to meet the challenge of these times."

He pointed out the real problem which farmer committeemen must meet is just ahead. The goal of the farm program is "an equitable income for farmers, prosperity for the country, and a continued strengthening of our soil resources through soil and water conservation -- and at the same time maintain a balanced abundance."

Essentials listed by the speakers if the program is to succeed are: full cooperation of farmers, understanding and a sense of fair play on the part of the public, and judgment and decisive action on the part of those who administer farm programs.

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1916-17

FOREST SERVICE

1915-16
1916-17

The Forest Service is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is the only Federal agency which is concerned with the management of the Nation's forest lands. The Service is responsible for the conservation of the forest resources of the United States, and for the promotion of the use of these resources in a manner which will insure their perpetuity for the benefit of the Nation.

The Forest Service is organized into several divisions, each of which is responsible for a specific function. The divisions are: the Division of Forestry, the Division of Forest Management, the Division of Forest Economics, the Division of Forest Education, and the Division of Forest Research.

The Division of Forestry is the largest of the divisions, and is responsible for the management of the Nation's forest lands. It is divided into several districts, each of which is responsible for a specific area. The districts are: the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain, the Great Basin, the Southwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast.

The Division of Forest Management is responsible for the management of the Nation's forest lands, and for the promotion of the use of these lands in a manner which will insure their perpetuity for the benefit of the Nation. It is divided into several districts, each of which is responsible for a specific area. The districts are: the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain, the Great Basin, the Southwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast.

The Division of Forest Economics is responsible for the study of the economic aspects of the forest resources of the United States, and for the promotion of the use of these resources in a manner which will insure their perpetuity for the benefit of the Nation. It is divided into several districts, each of which is responsible for a specific area. The districts are: the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain, the Great Basin, the Southwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast.

The Division of Forest Education is responsible for the promotion of the use of the forest resources of the United States, and for the promotion of the use of these resources in a manner which will insure their perpetuity for the benefit of the Nation. It is divided into several districts, each of which is responsible for a specific area. The districts are: the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain, the Great Basin, the Southwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast.

The Division of Forest Research is responsible for the study of the forest resources of the United States, and for the promotion of the use of these resources in a manner which will insure their perpetuity for the benefit of the Nation. It is divided into several districts, each of which is responsible for a specific area. The districts are: the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain, the Great Basin, the Southwest, the Southeast, and the Northeast.

WHY SUPPORT FARM PRICES? - With all the discussion going on about supporting farm prices -- at what level? what commodities? and how? -- some people are asking, "Why support farm prices, at all?" As background to these questions, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, makes the following observation:

1. The country's welfare is best served when there is an abundance of food. But it is impossible with the hazards of weather, disease and insects, to produce just exactly the right amount of food. To make sure there is plenty, farmers have to take chances on producing too much. But when there is too much -- without price supports -- the farmer suffers. Prices go down and often he has to produce at a loss. Price supports relieve him of the threat of bankruptcy, and the farmer is encouraged to continue to produce abundantly.

2. Farmers as separate operators of nearly 6 million farms -- each an independent production unit -- are defenseless in protecting themselves from the effects of surpluses. Price supports are needed to protect farmers from the wide fluctuations in price that result from shifts in yields and demands.

3. Price supports help to stabilize production as well as price. Extreme price fluctuations lead to extreme production shifts. Many are forced to increase production of certain commodities in a vain effort to meet fixed costs. If there is a material shift to other commodities, it only widens the distress front.

4. Price supports mean a more stable farm income. This is important, not only to the farm family, but to the businessman on Main Street. The farmer is better able to pay his bills and to buy the things which improve farm living standards. The resulting stability means more permanent tenure for the farmer and a greater stability for the community.

5. With a more stable income, the farmer has more incentive and is better able to farm for the future as well as the present. He is better able to carry out a year-after-year consistent soil and water conservation program. He isn't forced to interrupt his conservation efforts every time there are price slumps thus wiping

out the progress already made by inability to keep up the work previously started.

In Mr. _____'s opinion consumers are the main beneficiaries of price supports because they result in more stable production and a greater total of continuing production at lower and more stable prices. In the long run reduced ability of the soil to produce must be reflected in higher prices to consumers.

LOCAL COMMITTEEMEN TO SET ALLOTMENTS - If acreage allotments and marketing quotas become necessary next year for (crop or crops), the individual farm allotments will be set by the local farmer-committees, according to W. Leslie Martin, chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee. This is a vital point in the Nation's agricultural program, the chairman emphasizes.

He points out that when farmers are producing more of a commodity than can be marketed and ample reserves have been built up, they know that adjustments should be made. But as individual farmers they are helpless in making the necessary adjustments. Each farm has been laid out to grow particular crops. Machinery has been accumulated to grow these crops. On most farms it is not possible for the farmer to shift his entire farm from one crop to another.

Farmers are aware of this but without a farm program which provides a means for unified action there is no means for assuring desired results. Under the program the acreage that is needed to assure abundance without wasteful surpluses is divided equitably among the farmers of a community, a county and the country as a whole.

"And no one is better able to set up the individual allotments for a farm," the chairman states, "than the elected committeemen. They are farmers. They know the problems confronting their neighbors. They are elected each year. The farmers affected by the allotments they set are the ones who elect them.

"And no one can impose marketing quotas upon farmers. The law requires that two-thirds of the farmers voting in an announced referendum must approve marketing quotas before they can be put into effect."

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

5-20-49

NO. 346

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CURRENT FARM RECORD
AUG 23 1950
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

LOANS ON FARM STORED WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY RENEWABLE - Farmers with 1949 crop wheat, oats and barley under Commodity Credit Corporation loan or purchase agreement may renew the loan for another year, W. Leslie Martin, chairman of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee announces. These grains under purchase agreement may be put under loan.

Renewed loans will mature April 30, 1950. Arrangements for renewing loans may be made at county Agricultural Conservation Offices.

Grain under loan in public warehouses matured April 30, 1949 and is not eligible for loan renewal.

New Mexico wheat farmers taking part in the program will receive an immediate storage payment of 7 cents a bushel for the 1948-49 storage period, and $11\frac{1}{2}$ cents a bushel for the 1949-50 period on wheat delivered to the Commodity Credit Corporation at maturity of the loans.

For oats and barley no storage payments will be made for the 1948-49 storage period, but payments amounting to 8 cents a bushel for oats, and 10 cents for barley, will be made for the 1949-50 storage period on oats and barley delivered to CCC at maturity of the loans.

The program is designed to slow down the flow of loan and purchase agreement grain off the farms in excess of market requirements. It is also a part of the Department's over-all objective of encouraging farm storage of grains for orderly marketing and effective price support.

Department compilations show that farm-storage loans had been made on approximately 60 million bushels of 1948-crop wheat, 13 million bushels of oats, and 22 million bushels of barley. Quantities under purchase agreements totaled about 113 million bushels of wheat, $8\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels of oats, and 18 million bushels of barley. Figures are not available as to how much of the purchase agreement wheat, oats, and barley is still on the farms.

Loans on both farm-stored and warehouse-stored 1948-crop wheat, oats, and barley became due on April 30, 1949. Today's announcement gives farmers the option of paying off the farm storage loans, delivering the grain to CCC, or renewing the loans for another year. Loans on warehouse-stored wheat, oats, and barley are not affected by today's announcement and became due on April 30, 1949.

On 1948-crop purchase agreement wheat, oats, and barley, the CCC had agreed to buy during the 30-day period immediately following the maturity date of the 1948 loans any quantity up to the maximum covered by agreements at applicable loan delivery rates. Today's announcement gives producers the option of selling this grain to CCC, of keeping it, or putting it under loan at the 1948-loan rates.

(Further details are contained in Department press release of May 12.)

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CHAIRMAN MARTIN EXPLAINS 'ALLOTMENTS' AND 'QUOTAS' - News stories about "acreage allotments" and "marketing quotas" in connection with rapidly increasing stocks of farm commodities have prompted Mr. Martin, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, to try to clear up some apparent confusion in the use of the terms.

"In view of the possibility that these farm-program provisions may once more be called on to prevent disrupted market conditions," Mr. Martin said, "farmers and others ought to be sure that they understand what is meant by 'allotments' and 'quotas,'

"During the war, these parts of the national farm program were ~~not~~ used, so this confusion in the use of the two terms is not surprising. There is a very definite difference in meaning, however. The two words are not interchangeable."

An "acreage allotment," Mr. Martin explains, means that acreage which is required to grow a crop of the size needed. A national allotment is set by the Secretary of Agriculture and then broken down by States, counties, and farms. A farmer may comply or not with his farm allotment, but if he does not he is not entitled to receive Government price supports on his crop.

A "marketing quota" for a basic crop, on the other hand, represents that supply necessary to meet all market demands for that crop and insure a safe carryover. The national quota is divided among States, counties, and farms by means of acreage allotments. A farm's quota -- usually the entire production from that farm's acreage allotment -- represents that farm's share of the national market for the particular crop. Marketings in excess of the farm quota are subject to a penalty.

When supplies of a commodity reach a certain level fixed by law, marketing quotas must be proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture, but they must be approved by two-thirds of the farmers voting in a referendum before they may be put into operation. Once quotas are approved, however, they apply to all growers of that crop.

- In other words, here are the main differences between "allotments" and "quotas":
- ****Acreage allotments for basic crops may be used each year as a means of producing a crop of the size needed. In years when supplies of a crop are excessive, quotas may be called into operation, when approved by growers, as a means of marketing that crop in an orderly manner.
 - ****Acreage allotments can be used without quotas. Marketing quotas require the use of acreage allotments, for the allotments are a means of dividing the market among growers.
 - ****Farmers vote on whether or not they want to use quotas in marketing their crop, and two-thirds of the farmers voting must approve quotas before they may be put into operation. No vote is held on whether to use acreage allotments
 - ****If a farmer does not comply with his acreage allotment, he becomes ineligible to receive price supports on his crop, but this is his only loss. If marketing quotas are in effect and a farmer markets more than his quota, he must pay a penalty on his excess marketings.

DON'T OVERLOOK CONSERVATION - With the Agricultural spotlight shifting to acreage allotments, marketing quotas, price supports and what to do with "surplus" farm commodities, the conservation of soil and water becomes increasingly important in the opinion of _____ chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

The chairman urges county farmers to keep on with their conservation plans. "Although per-acre yields have increased tremendously during the last 12 years and surpluses are beginning to pile up for a number of crops, we must not forget that population is increasing and land is limited. We must take care of every acre of good cropland we have to assure continued production of enough food for a growing country."

He points out that it now seems certain that 20 to 30 million acres will be taken out of the production of our principle cash crops. This provides a real opportunity to step up soil and water conservation work on the diverted land.

Farmers and consumers will benefit from shifting this acreage into conservation uses, the chairman explains. Soil fertility will not be wasted in the production of commodities for which there is no market. Instead, reserves will be stored in the soil for future needed production.

Heavy production of grain and other cash crops during and since the war have depleted the humus and broken down the soil structure on millions of acres in the Nation and there is a growing need to get much of this land back into sod crops.

As the chairman explains, "The real wealth of _____ county is in the soil and ^{as} farmers we are the guardians of that wealth. Through the Agricultural Conservation Program the Nation is providing assistance to help us do the conservation job but it still is up to us to do it. Now that we can take some of our land out of heavy production of cash crops, we have an opportunity to do a better conservation job than ever. As farmers and as a Nation we cannot afford to pass up this opportunity.

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NO IMPROVEMENT IN GRAIN STORAGE SITUATION - Present wheat prospects indicate no easing of the storage situation for farmers in most of the wheat states, according to Thomas R. Roberts, Member of the New Mexico Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

The May crop report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture forecasts a winter wheat crop of 1,021,476,000 bushels, which is the second largest winter wheat crop ever produced in this country.

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Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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PRODUCTION, CONSERVATION ONE PROBLEM, SAYS BRANNAN - One of the greatest things we can do in the cause of conservation is to prevent the wasteful use of resources in the production of surpluses, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently told the National Emergency Conference on Resources at Washington, D. C.

"With the public helping to finance soil conservation, it does not make good sense to finance price supports without reference to conservation policy," the Secretary said. "One of the responsibilities of the farmer who receives the benefit of price support should be to observe a sound conservation standard in the public interest. This is one of the ways the public should expect to get its money's worth from price-support expenditures.

"Furthermore, this is fair from the farmer's standpoint, for an effective price-support system helps him maintain a level of income that permits him to conserve rather than mine the soil...

"Through our price support system we can encourage livestock production and otherwise develop a pattern of production that will naturally conserve the soil. As far as the individual farmer is concerned, there is one farming operation -- not one for production and one for conservation. His problem is to operate in such a way that he produces profitably and conserves the resources at the same time...Surpluses, low prices, farm poverty -- these are enemies of conservation."

Regarding the great scope of the conservation issue, Secretary Brannan said: "The soundest possible Government program is not the full answer to the conservation problem. The Government may do a large amount of conservation work directly; it may also provide considerable help and encouragement; but, beyond all that, the job requires a terrific investment of hard work, sweat, and money by the individual operators of the land...

"Soil science is a growing body of knowledge. We may learn more effective ways of treating the ulcers of the land. We may learn how to prevent them. Meanwhile, we can continue to make progress without waiting for the perfect solution of the problem or the perfect measurement of the task... As practical people, we must remember this: Progress comes of going on from where we are. We can never wipe the slate clean and start over...

"To meet some of the obvious problems, we are not so much in need of new measures as we are in need of a general intensification of effort. All along the line, we need to intensify those efforts which are designed to encourage and assist farmers, on the land they own or control, to stop the soil deterioration now in progress and restore a high state of fertility."

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CHAIRMAN REPORTS ACP SIGN-UP - Farm plans, indicating intentions to carry out soil and water conservation practices have been signed by (number) county farmers, according to , chairman of the county Agricultural Conservation Committee. This is percent of the farmers in the county who could participate in the ACP program. Under the 1948 Program, farmers signed up and carried out conservation practices.

Mr. explained that under the 1949 ACP, cooperating farmers receive assistance in carrying out soil and water conservation practices. This assistance in the form of materials, services or financial aid represents about half the "out-of-pocket" cost of the approved practices.

The assistance to the farmers cooperating in the program represents the national interest in helping farmers to keep soil from washing and blowing away and in keeping the land productive. All participation is voluntary but assistance is given only when locally specified conservation practices are carried out.

The chairman explains that although the ACP is a national program, it is adapted to local conservation needs. Among the practices for which _____ county farmers have signed up to carry out under the 1949 program are: (list the main practices) .

In _____ county, as in all counties in the country, the ACP program is administered by elected committeemen. There are _____ community committeemen and three county committeemen in the county. The county committeemen are (names and addresses) .

Under the 1948 Program, cooperating farmers carried out the following practices: (Name of practice - Unit - acres, tons, etc.)

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HOW LONG WILL THE LAND LAST? - Are you burning down a part of your farm plant each year?

In asking this question, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, said he was not referring to the buildings on the farm but the farm itself. Too often too many farmers are doing what amounts to the same thing as burning down a part of the farm plant each year.

During the war and since there has been a heavy drain on the land. Growing conditions have been favorable and prices have encouraged increased production of wheat, cotton, corn and similar soil depleting crops.

This heavy cropping to meet war needs and to "cash in" on higher prices has led to continuous growing of depleting crops on the same land. This has meant year after year of plowing, harrowing, discing, and cultivating. The humus has been worked out of the soil. The healthy "popcorn ball" structure has been broken down. The soil particles are either loose, separate, fine particles and easily carried away by wind and water, or they are pressed together in "brick-like" masses. Such soil holds little moisture and is easily eroded.

On farms where this has been taking place, the chairman points out, more and more of the soil has been lost. The reserves of essential minerals have been reduced. Eventually, if not checked, the whole farm plant will be ruined and the abandoned farm will be a liability to the community and country.

A primary purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman points out, is to help prevent this loss and to repair the damage already done.

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